



### WATER RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

**Meeting.** The Water Resource Coordinating Council (WRCC) met on July 19 in Altoona. The meeting was called to order by Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture. Items discussed included:

**Iowa Ag Mapping.** Adam Schnieders, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed the Iowa Ag Mapping Project with data from over nine million acres. The data was collected from 2007 through 2010 from the Iowa LiDAR Project. The Iowa Ag Mapping Project will allow a user to review an area to determine what types of conservation practices have been installed.

**Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.** Laurie Wissler, Iowa State University Extension, provided an overview of the Annual Progress Report for 2015–2016 for the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The following is a summary of the partner efforts for the past year:

- The Iowa Institute for Hydrologic Research (IIHR) deployed 30 nitrate sensors in 2015 and 45 sensors in 2016.
- The DNR is finalizing a research paper that provides an overview of the current water quality monitoring network.
- The three-year pilot project that will evaluate water quality monitoring protocols has been implemented at ISU.
- The DNR has issued 89 point source permits to date from a total of 149 facilities as outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy Report.
- Water quality data has been obtained from 41 publicly owned treatment facilities.
- Three projects from the Iowa Nutrient Research Center have been completed.

**Iowa Watershed Approach.** Larry Weber, IIHR, provided an update on the [Iowa Watershed Approach](#) that will be funded by the federal Housing and Urban Development Authority. This is a five-year project that was awarded \$96.6 million to accomplish the following goals: reduce flood risk, improve water quality, increase resilience, engage stakeholders with outreach and education programs, improve the quality of life and health, and develop a program that can be replicated and used in the Midwest and other parts of the country.

- The nine watershed project sites include: Bee Branch Creek in Dubuque, Upper Iowa River, Upper Wapsipinicon River, Middle Cedar River, Clear Creek, English River, North Raccoon River, West Nishnabotna River, and East Nishnabotna River.
- Each of the sites will have a Watershed Management Authority status, develop a water assessment and watershed plan, and implement projects that reduce downstream flooding and improve water quality during and after flood events.

**Watershed Planning Advisory Council.** Clare Lindahl, Conservation Districts of Iowa, provided an update on the Watershed Planning Advisory Council meeting that was held on July 13.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on September 28 in the Des Moines area. No location has been determined at this time.

**Additional Information.** For additional information, refer to the WRCC [website](#).

**STAFF CONTACT:** Deb Kozel (515-281-6767) [deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov)